courses conducted by the Institute of Railways Transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The Institute of Rail Transport is a non-official, non-profit body of Railway executives, staff and other professionals registered under the Societies Act dedicated to the study and research of subject pertaining to Transport, particularly Rail Transport. It is not possible to issue any direction to the Society to introduce Hindi medium in the courses conducted by the Institute.

[*English*]

Menengitis deaths

4197. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of deaths reported in the country on account of meningitis over the years;

(b) if so, the number of deaths reported on account of the disease;

(c) whether meningitis vaccine is not available in most of the Government hospitals and health centres; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the disease and make the vaccine available in sufficient quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Available data do not indicate increase in the number of deaths due to meningitis.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Vaccine has limited role to play in epidemic of meningitis because of time taken for development of active mmunity. Moreover, mass vaccination against meningococcal meningitis is not cost effective and is hot recommended.

Health being a State subject, it is for the State Govt. to take appropriate action. However, for control of Menigitis outbreak, the following steps are generally required to be taken.'

1. Early diagnosis and treatment of cases.

2. In case carriers are detected, they should be given chemiprophylaxis.

3. Chemoprophylaxis of contracts especially in schools.

4. Improvement of environmental conditions to decrease over crowding.

5. Vaccination to high risk population.

Navyug Schools

4198. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Navyug Schools of Eighth-standard upto 10+2 standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of schools likely to be converted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?